

Lou's notes from Volunteer Meeting 16 April 1973

also available on COMMUNITY II recorded by Will May

[once again, asides from Elliott]

1/ The TIVICON tube has arrived, but has not yet been installed. [At the time of the meeting, there were two portapacks in the shop, the one remaining was being used for the class. In other words, all kinds of things need to be done right now, so it might take a couple of days for the TIV to get installed.]

2/ There was no mention of broken decks on the weekend checkout sheets. ANY problem, no matter how slight, should be noted on the returning check out sheet. This helps us keep close track of the equipment and spot problems before they get out of hand [altho with two decks out, it looks like they already have].

3/ Elliott read the list he had been making all day of things he wanted to discuss at this meeting. they were: TV Station Mistique, The general check out procedure, the Reading tape, Experimenting on the cable, Notating tape lengths, Yellow dots, "Public Access Presents....."??, tape 95: Yellow dot but no video on the tape, The status of incoming equipment, what's come in and what can we do with it, The status of the new Editing Bench, The next meeting of the rules committee.

4/ A discussion of TV Station Mistique ensued [but faltered due to lack of good definition of TV Station Mistique. I was reluctant to supply one for one reason or another. My definition would be based on 9 years professional experience in just one mode of television use. I have about 6 months time in a wide variety of other uses of the medium (read: Workshop) which I am beginning to value as much as the 9 years. The point is that we are all learning how things should be done, and how things should go and I think it's important that we be very careful not to be unduly influenced by commercial/broadcast/"real" television as available already in overdose proportion.]

5/ Some people are bored with things other people enjoy ie: Nick Hart's father disliked and was bored with Bob Lee's tape about geodesic domes. [De gustibus non est disputandum or something like that]

6/ Should we limit the number of times a tape is played? (No action taken on this question, feeling was that problem would take care of itself as demand for access grows)

7/ Sunday Night Beckey May did not have a blank tape- all the blank tapes had been given out- volunteers who are checking out people should be aware of how many more people need to be checked out and how much tape is available for them. Will suggested that anyone needing more than 2 rolls of tape mark it down on the reservation board when they write down tripod, lights, shotgun mike, wide angle lens, tivicon, etc.

9/ Someone is still needed to do an inventory of tapes, and straighten them out once each week. Sometimes the wrong tapes get put in the wrong boxes, sometimes the wrong tapes get put on the wrong reels and this needs to be taken care of when it happens or the whole tape numbering system goes down the drain and we have no system of keeping track of tape and we lose tape.

10/ Bob Brown suggested we have a project sheet- Elliott said we could do the same thing by marking down what someone needs on the reservation board. [In fact, in some Workshops it is necessary to fill out a project sheet just to get the equipment. I don't think we are ready for that kind of system yet, maybe we never will be.]

11/Brian Zont suggested that members be encouraged to buy their own tapes.

12/ Tom Heckel said that the tape problem was a symptom that there were many people in the workshop on their own ego trips.

13/Will said that no one pays any attention to the Volunteers. Elliott said that we need to concentrate on asking more people to become volunteers. We need some new blood. The workshop is "inbreeding" still.

14/ The volunteer on duty has a responsibility to notice when handing out equipment and tape, what is going on and what will be needed later that day or early the next morning.

15/ There is no reason the workshop has to be over-structured. There is an area between chaos and a highly structured organization.

16/ Bobby suggested we might need more tape. If, after we make a concerted effort to get the tape in process edited or cleared, we can honestly say we need more tapes, we can probably get it.

17/ We don't need any more paperwork.

18/We need to make an attempt to get the tapes in process cleared or edited.

[here, we went into a discussion of how to get things moving, tapes cleared or edited]

19/ Time limit might be put on tapes in process- possibly two weeks...

20/ Will May suggested A) anyone needing more than 2 tapes should check with Elliott B) Time limit put on tapes in process C) If anyone wants to hold a tape longer than the limit, it should be suggested that he buy it.

21/ Elliott suggested that time be reserved on the channel before the equipment be checked out. Since the whole point of PUBLIC ACCESS is program on the cable, that that should be our first priority. Elliott feels we have lost sight of that fact. [Elliott also realizes that there are some projects in process which are important to the people involved and important to the workshop that are not designed directly to program the channel. Allowances must be made for these projects but we should seriously begin thinking in terms of Channel again, communication, not portapacking.]

22/ Elliott will begin to set up a procedure for #21 so the mechanics will be set up!

23/ The volunteers agreed with #21 and 22 and realized that they had made a decision. Elliott had a cookie to celebrate.

24/Instructions as to how to operate the cablecasting equipment will be posted, since the configuration of the equipment changes from day to day.

25/ Yellow dots indicate CABLECASTABLE tapes, and no other tapes should be played.

26/ Tapes should be timed when they are previewed for cablecasting.

27/ The question of censoring tapes was opened but not really fully discussed [as if it ever could be].

The next volunteer's meeting is next monday, 7:30 at Elliott's house 632 E. Livingston.

If you live on the cable, or know someone who is on the cable you can see the last meeting, probably should call and ask to have it played or you could drop by the workshop and probably see it.

It sure would be good if all the volunteers could make the next meeting, I know they are mostly dull, and nothing much ever seems to get done, [we must be honest, especially with ourselves] but I can't help but feel that with more participation at the meetings we would get a better sense of ourselves and more would get done. Think about these notes and the ideas therein, and bring your thoughts and yourself to the next meeting. WE NEED OUR HELP.

PS:: THERE IS A LOT OF SPACE ON THE VOLUNTEER'S & WATCH THE SHOP CALENDAR AND THIS IS GIVING US SOME PROBLMES. PLEASE TRY TO CALL OR DROP BY AND TAKE A COUPLE OF NIGHTS WATCHING OVER THINGS. IF WE ENCOURAGE MORE VOLUNTEER SUPPORT WE WILL EACH HAVE LESS STORE WATCHING TO DO AND THE OPERATION CAN CONTINUE SMOOTHLEY. ecm